

Message Text

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22 10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /065 W

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O R 090927Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5982

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 0366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, CH, JA

SUBJ: JAPAN MOURNS CHOU EN-LAI

1. JAPANESE REACTING WITH GENUINE SADNESS TO DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI. PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER LEADER OF THE PRC, CHOU WAS RESPECTED AS A GREAT LEADER, A SKILLFUL DIPLOMAT, AND AN ADROIT POLITICAL PRACTITIONER IN THE TOUGH LEAGUES OF CHINESE PARTY AND STATE POLITICS. CHOU IS ALSO REGARDED AS THE ARCHITECT OF CHINESE RAPPROCHEMENT WITH JAPAN AND THE US. CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FLOODED TO PEKING FROM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES (INCLUDING THE JCP), BUSINESS AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERS.

PM MIKI, FONMIN MIYAZAWA, FORMER PM TANAKA, AND OTHERS INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS WERE RECEIVED JAN 9 A.M. AT THE PRC EMBASSY. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY IDE ISSUED THE OFFICIAL GOJ REACTION STATING THAT "THE LOSS OF THE GREAT LEADER HAS OCCASIONED PROFOUND SORROW NOT ONLY IN CHINA BUT ALSO IN JAPAN." HE ADDED THAT GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. "JAPAN WOULD," IDE SAID, "SEND A REPRESENTATIVE SUITABLE TO CHOU'S STANDING AND ACHIEVEMENTS TO HIS FUNERAL TO EXPRESS ITS DEEP GRIEF OVER HIS DEPARTURE."

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THE CABINET SUBSEQUENTLY NAMED PM MIKI THE ENVOY, SHOULD

PEKING DECIDE TO RECEIVE FOREIGN GUESTS. THE PRC HAS INFORMED GOJ TWICE THAT NOT ONLY WOULD FOREIGN GUESTS NOT BE INVITED, THEY WOULD NOT EVEN BE RECEIVED. FONOFF CHINA DIVISION INFORMED US THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET ENTIRELY GIVEN UP HOPE THAT THE CHINESE WOULD RECEIVE MIKI AND ARE STILL WORKING ON THIS HOPE.

2. IN ITS INITIAL ASSESSMENT, THE CHINA DIVISION DOES NOT EXPECT THE DEATH OF CHOU TO AFFECT FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC PRC POLICIES IN THE SHORT RUN. IN LONGER RUN THOUGH WITHOUT THE STRONG, MOERATE INFLUENCE OF CHOU, HIS ENORMOUS PRESTIGE IN CHINA, AND HIS ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITIES, CENTRAL AUTHORITY COULD ERODE. FOREIGN POLICY COULD ALSO BE AFFECTED. IN EMBASSY VIEW, JAPAN WILL LOOK FOR REASSURANCES AS IT ATTEMPTS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY. DEATH OF CHOU WILL ALSO SWEEP GROMYKO'S VISIT TO TOKYO FROM TOP MEDIA BILLING AND WILL SUBTLY BOLSTER JAPANESE RESOLVE NOT TO WEAKEN UNDER PRESSURE GROMYKO MIGHT ATTEMPT ON SINO-JAPANESE ISSUES.

3. PRC EMBASSY TOKYO PLANS A MEMORIAL CEREMONY TUESDAY, JAN. 14 AT THEIR EMBASSY. CHINA DIVISION INFORMED US THAT CIRCULAR INVITATIONS TO EMBASSIES WILL BE EXTENDED. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER U.S. EMBASSY WILL BE INVITED BUT OF COURSE PLAN TO ATTEND IF INVITED. CONDOLENCE BOOK WILL ALSO BE OPEN JAN 14.

HODGSON

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